

No. R-323. House concurrent resolution congratulating Ryan and Gabrielle Viens on their life-saving rescue support for Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury.

(H.C.R.265)

Offered by Representatives Morgan, M. of Milton and Morgan, L. of Milton

Offered by Senator Brennan

Whereas, on March 4, 2026, the quick and effective response of two off-duty South Hero volunteer firefighters, husband and wife Ryan and Gabrielle Viens, proved crucial to the rescue of Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury, and

Whereas, as Grand Isle County Sheriff Ray Allen related the story, at approximately 8:15 p.m., Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury conducted a traffic stop on Route 2 in South Hero based on a stop sign violation, and

Whereas, once Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury stopped the vehicle, the driver immediately pulled away, executed a U-turn, and drove straight at the law enforcement officer, who was standing at the side of his cruiser, and, upon impact, Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury was dragged under the vehicle as it headed off the road, and

Whereas, a tree located on the property of Ryan and Gabrielle Viens halted the vehicle's trajectory, and

Whereas, both Ryan and Gabrielle Viens heard the crash and raced to the site, where Ryan Viens prevented the operator from backing the vehicle off the property, and he simultaneously heard Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury's yells for help from underneath the vehicle, and

Whereas, Ryan Viens dashed off to call for assistance while Gabrielle Viens remained with Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury, and once the emergency services crew arrived to oversee the extraction operation, both assisted in this time-sensitive effort, and

Whereas, there is no doubt Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury's rescue would not have occurred as rapidly, and possibly not at all, had Ryan and Gabrielle Viens not immediately responded to the crash, as Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury was not visible to the rescuers nor continuously conscious, and

Whereas, in recognition of Ryan and Gabrielle Viens's superb responsiveness throughout this public-safety emergency, Grand Isle County Sheriff Ray Allen has recommended they be awarded the State Lifesaver of the Year Award, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Ryan and Gabrielle Viens on their life-saving rescue support for Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ryan and Gabrielle Viens.